

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0027] as originally filed (paragraph [0033] as published) with the amended paragraph shown below.

[0027] Another exemplary embodiment according to the present invention is depicted in FIG. 5. In this embodiment, a double horizontal slit is used to define the movable elements of a valve element 250. More specifically, a pair of substantially parallel slits 262 ~~extend~~ extends through the flexible disk 260, substantially along a major dimension thereof. In the case of a substantially elliptical flexible disk 260, as shown, the slits 262 are substantially parallel to a major axis of the ellipse. A movable element 264 is thus defined substantially at the center of the flexible disk 260, and is constrained only at ends 265 thereof near termination points of the slits 262.

Please replace paragraph [0030] as originally filed (paragraph [0036] as published) with the amended paragraph shown below.

[0030] In the exemplary embodiment shown, the slits 312 and 314 do not touch one another so that the movable elements 320 are continuous with portions 322 of the flexible disk 320. In different embodiments, the slits 312 and 314 may intersect with one another, breaking the flexible disk 320 into additional distinct moving elements. In the exemplary embodiment shown, the movable elements 320 are unconstrained along the slits 312, 314, but are constrained in the region between the slits by being continuous with the portions 322 of the flexible disk 320. The addition of the Y-configured slits permits the movable elements 320 to open to a greater extent under an actuating pressure, while retaining a biasing force sufficient to close the opening when the actuating pressure is removed. To further bias the movable elements 320 toward the closed position, resilient elements 316, 318 may be added. As ~~diskussed~~ discussed in the context of previous embodiments, the resilient elements 316, 318 may be disposed in a substantially rectangular pattern around the slits 312, 314 to control the deflection and closure of the movable elements 320 in two perpendicular directions. The resilient elements 316, 318 may form a ~~completly~~ completely rectangular enclosure as shown in FIG. 6, or may have open vertices, as shown in previous embodiments. As would be understood by those skilled in the art, the relative size and orientation of the slits 312, 314 may be selected to give desired flow and closing properties, for a given flexible disk 320.